

Summer FUN Show July 7-9, 2016

Don Haley, Fred Avan, Dorothy Avan, Erin Leigh & current OHNS President Carol Bastable volunteered to represent The Original Hobo Nickel Society at the 2016 Summer FUN show in Orlando, Florida July 7-9, 2016.

The crew managed the OHNS club booth fielding questions from coin dealers & hobo nickel collectors. Don Haley educated all who visited the booth, sharing his vast knowledge of the history of hobo nickel carving, showcasing the tools of the trade in his many exhibit cases.



Carol Bastable was interviewed by Charles Morgan of Coin Week for their series "Cool Coins". Carol discussed a hobo-style American Silver Eagle by master engraver Ron Landis with an estimated value of \$6,000.

Carol was not all business during Summer FUN; she added her creativity to the OHNS photo area donning yellow crocs much like her predecessor Archie Taylor bringing some merriment to photographs taken on a very busy bourse floor. ♦



YN and Fred Avan and Don Haley at OHNS Table



Bo and Bert



Don Haley sharing hobo nickels with the Tellinghuisen family

BoTales Banner Banter and Editor's Remarks



This issue's banner coin is a very well executed contemporary carving by Amy Armstrong. The coin is modern but subject matter depicts a Depression Era hobo making hobo soup. She created a hobo nickel based on the Hobo Soup label. This really neat carving sold recently on eBay for \$860. I don't know if you realize it or not, but I try to alternate the *BoTales* issues banner coin between classic carved coins and modern renderings. The winter issue (Auction Catalog) banner may vary depending on the auction content. Also the spring issue may have something special on it like the 25th Anniversary winning carved coin (see page 11). Carol Bastable did not know I had chosen Amy's carving for this issue's banner, nor had I known that it was to be the subject matter of Carol's Hobo Ephemera article. So to find out more, please see Carol's article found on page 19. Again thanks to Chris Dempsey for creating this issue's banner.

I want to thank Erin Leigh for her contribution of photo articles found on the front cover, page 12 and on the back cover. Also thanks to Carol Bastable for supplying the Summer FUN Show photos found on the bottom of the front cover.

Thanks to a member donation we are again able to print this issue of *BoTales* in color. See page 23 to find out about a possible future donation program.

As your *BoTales* editor, I choose what to include in each issue. Sometimes it's material on classic hobo nickels and sometimes it articles about modern carvings or hobo nickel ambassadors like Archie Taylor (see page 12). **Kudos, Archie!** I don't discriminate one way or the other. If there's room, I publish **everything I receive from our members**. So send me your articles and photographs and letters to the editor. I try to stay up with what's happening, but I often fall short and need some help (sometimes a lot). My contact information can be found on page 3. ♦



New members Since BoTales 2016 #2

RM-1474	Rusty Morris	TX
JM-1475	Grant Shobar	CA
RM-1476	Brent Pearson	CO

BoTales Publishing Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Submission</u>	<u>Publishing Date</u>
Vol. 25, No. 4	Nov. 1, 2016	Nov. 15, 2016
Vol. 26, No. 1	Feb. 1, 2017	Feb. 15, 2017
Vol. 26, No. 2	May 1, 2017	May 15, 2017
Vol. 26, No. 3	Aug. 1, 2017	Aug. 16, 2017

This schedule is dependent on the timely submission of articles and pictures for each issue. Send your material to **OHNS Editor Ralph Winter** (see page 3)

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Board Member Emeritus	Bill “Zemo” Fivaz PO Box 888660, Atlanta, GA 30356-0660 feev555@gmail.com
Scholarship Coordinator	

2016 OHNS Hobo Tokens

2016 OHNS tokens are still available to OHNS members. The price is \$29 per set (copper and silver) including postage or \$20 for the silver and \$15 for the copper. 2016 is the 2nd in a five year train (reverse) series.



A few 2015 sets are available. Prices same as 2016. All the 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 tokens are gone.

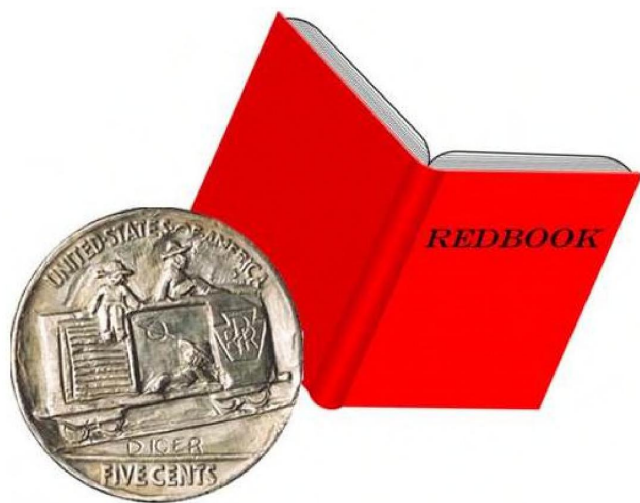


Please submit your order to: Don Haley
5929 Wedgewood Village Circle, Lake Worth,
Florida 33463-7368. Checks are to be made out
to the Original Hobo Nickel Society or OHNS.
Don's email address is **DonLHaley@aol.com**.

The 3rd printing Guidebooks are available at \$28 postage paid and “The Hobo Nickel” slide show DVD is available for \$10. A PC or laptop with CD drive is required to view files. Old issues of *BoTales* are also available for purchase. Contact Don for details on any of these items. Don also has NEW pin-back buttons available for sale. The price is \$5 each and \$2.50 postage for 1 or 2 buttons. ♦



Breaking News!



Major news for the hobo nickels hobby was just released. Whitman Publications' *"The Red Book"* will include a section on Hobo Nickels in the "2018 Mega Red" edition due out in March, 2017. Bill Fivaz is assisting by supplying text and photos. *"The Red Book"* editor, Ken Bressett, will be selecting from twenty-five photos supplied by Fivaz. Included in the batch of photos are representative examples of each of the quality designation (QD) categories. With Bo's "Dicer" coin setting an all-time sales price, that one is definitely planned but selection of the other photo submissions is up to the editor.

The approved text is as follows:

"A "Hobo Nickel" is primarily a Buffalo Nickel that has had one (or both) sides altered by someone outside the Mint to make it look like another image. It is usually the obverse that has been changed, typically showing a bearded man wearing a derby. Less often, the Buffalo side was altered to represent a different animal (donkey, horse, elephant, etc.) or a walking hobo wearing a backpack. During the 1930s depression, hoboes would carve these miniature works of art to sell or trade for a ride on a boxcar, a meal, clothing or a night's lodging. These are very collectible, with a Superior obverse/reverse carving (reverse illustrated) selling for over \$24,000.00 in 2012." ♦

2016 Summer FUN

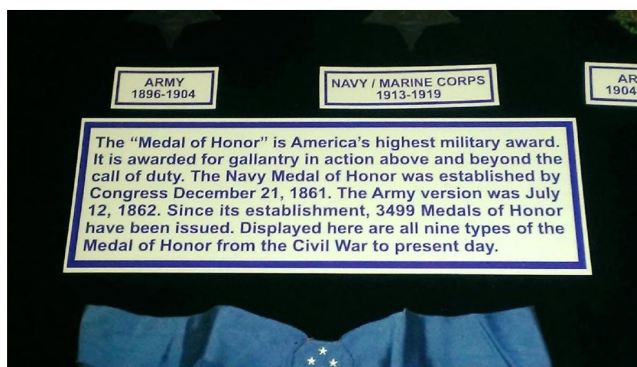
By Sandy "Slip" Pearl LM710

I attended the 2016 Summer FUN show July 7-9, 2016 at the convention center in Orlando Florida. While there I helped man the FUN Membership booth and participated in the show. There were over 200 dealer tables, numerous non-competitive exhibits, a multi-million dollar Heritage

auction, several kids programs, specialty club meetings, as well as multiple educational seminars.

The weather was hot and from what I heard from many dealers so was the show. Every dealer I talked to had had a good show.

Among the exhibits was a display (see photo below) of number of Congressional Medals of Honor awarded through the years since the Civil War.



Auction prices were strong – a fellow collector bid on a number of lots and was out bid on all but one lot and that bid was above Gray Sheet bids.

The educational seminars covered a number of subjects from consumer awareness to Morgan dollars to currency errors and varieties to counterfeits.

I was at our OHNS table numerous times. Our table was ably represented by President Carol Bastable, by Business Manager Don Haley, by member Fred Avan, and by publicist Erin O'Donnell. Our display cases provided a wealth of information about Hobo Nickels and our club. As usual children were provided fun handouts including bowler hats a whistles – eliciting comments from surrounding dealers when the kids experimented with their handouts. My only disappointment was not being able to spend more time at the table.

I look forward to the next FUN show in January 2017 at Fort Lauderdale and the ANA show in March 2017 in Orlando. OHNS will be represented with tables at both shows. ♦

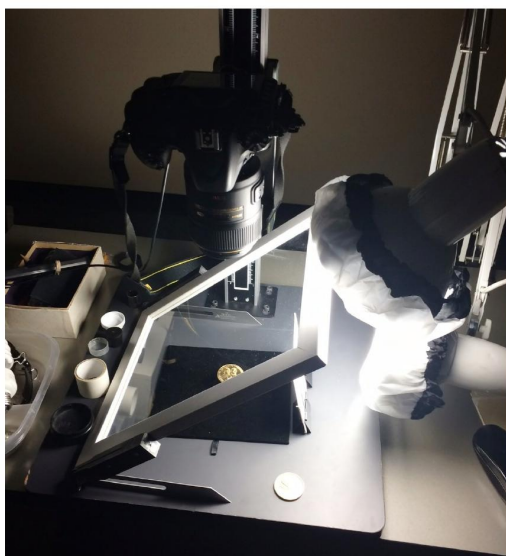
2016 ANA Summer Seminar

By Tyler Tyson, RM 1126

2016 Numismatically speaking has been an exceptionally good year for me, thanks to the OHNS, Del Romines Scholarship, fellow hobo carvers, and the hobo collectors alike. For quite a few years I've wanted to attend the FUN show in Florida, however with me living smack dab in the middle of the country it took a little bit of planning for me to get there. Luckily my wife (Joyce Tyson) encouraged me to look into it early on, all it took was one simple question from me to her; "would you consider going to Florida in January"? Surprisingly she agreed.

From the title of this article you will probably surmise that I'm not going to go into the details of the great time I had in Florida. But I bring it up because that is where my trip to the 2016 ANA Summer Seminar begins. At the FUN convention in Tampa, FL I was awarded the Del Romines Scholarship to attend the Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, CO. Due to some confusion about the meeting times, I found out about it later on in the morning just before the OHNS auction. For the next 6 months I was excited and couldn't wait to go to Colorado.

For those that might not be familiar with the ANA Summer Seminar, it is basically Coin College, taught and attended by coin collectors, numismatic authors, dealers, and I'll mention – quite a few hobo carvers and collectors. The attendees come from all walks of life, and from all around the country and even a few from around the globe. It's held in Colorado Springs, CO at the Colorado College over two sessions (week 1 and week 2). The classes cover numerous topics that range from coin grading to Hobo Carving 101. The knowledge imparted from these classes are valuable and can catapult your understanding & experience in a very short time.



Numismatic digital photography class. Beam splitter set up

The course I decided to take was Digital Numismatic Photography for Collectors, taught by Robert Kelley and Douglas Mudd. Mr. Kelley is a renowned photographer with the ANA, and Mr. Mudd besides being a walking encyclopedia, is a top notch photographer in his own right. I chose this course because like many of you I photograph coins to catalog, trade and/or sell. I've always thought my iPhone with a loupe did an O.K. job, but I wanted to do better. Both the instructors work at the ANA Money Museum and are extremely professional and knowledgeable when it comes to coins and photography. The very first day we were shooting, critiquing, and experimenting with different lights and the angles of the lights. Quickly I found out that some methods work better for coins in slabs vs raw coins, silver coins vs. copper coins, and so on. The coursework covered all types of set ups, camera types and even went into taking a photo with a smart phone. I found that a light dome works best for the Hobo Nickels I had with me and it was what I've been using all along. At home I now use a frosted glass light shade that I had from when the wife changed out the bathroom lights. I use it to diffuse the light (flashlight). Before I took the class I photographed coins outside in natural light. For now this will work, in the future I hope to have a good camera with Macro Lens. Fortunately I now know what I need and it will save me a lot of guess work and experimentation (time and money).



Robert Kelley & Tyler at ANA Money Museum Mini Mint

While at the College, I did run across quite a few known hobo carvers; Joe Paonessa, Dan Aidif, Bruce Benoit, Adam Leech (I had to go to the Leechpit), Tiny Daniel Cross, Abigail Zechman, and the 2016 class of

Hobo Carving 101. I can't say enough good things about attending the Summer Seminar, thanks to all of you for making it happen. There are many coin related events going on across the country, like many of you I usually have to pick and choose which ones I will attend. The Del Romines Scholarship makes one more such trip possible. I hope to share what I've learned with any collectors that might be interested.



Tyler & Adam Leech at Leechpit in Colorado Springs



Joyce & Tyler Tyson in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Thank you once again, and if 'you' have ever wanted to attend the Summer Seminar, but it might not be possible this year.... Apply for the Del Romines Scholarship, it is possible to go. The importance of our numismatic sect being informed is tantamount to all of our success. I cannot say enough good things about the camaraderie and knowledge shared at the Summer Seminar, after attending, you will leave a changed collector. ♦

Guest Carver at KNA Show

Tyler Tyson was the guest carver at the 2016 KNA (Kansas Numismatic Association) annual Stamp and Coin Show held on June 18, 2016 in Wichita, Kansas. ♦



Introducing “The Gambler”

Arturo DelFavero, RM 552 and Chris Dempsey, LM 64

An unusual classic carving was won by Chris Dempsey in the early part of 2016. As I recall, the selling eBay member posted a poor quality photo, so the coin went for a moderate price. Upon viewing the offering Chris noticed that this work had potential matches which included a pairing with one in his collection. A triad of matches was soon achieved; this met the criteria for nicknaming.

A few names were mentioned, one being S.E. Grin, this being my personal favorite. Ultimately we settled on Chris’s choice. He had noticed a dice shape on the hat bow of two specimens, and this feature ended up as a natural lead to his nickname.



The carving characteristics for “The Gambler” are as follows:

- 1) Hat with accent lines
- 2) Pointed end hat bow with dice shaped center (on two specimens only).
- 3) High on head pointed lobed ears.
- 4) Head and facial hair created with short graver marks.
- 5) Enhanced eyes.
- 6) Enhanced noses with extended nostrils.
- 7) Enhanced cheeks.
- 8) Extreme profile changes.
- 9) Enhanced grinning mouths (teeth added on one example) rare.
- 10) Very similar collars with accent lines and stick pin added.
- 11) LIBERTY left; dates removed in lieu of added detail.
- 12) Neck area very clean.
- 13) Field work clean.

Introducing “Bo Tie”

Marc Banks, RM 538

Several years ago I purchased a group of hobo nickels that included carving #1 (top of next page) which depicted the traditional bearded hobo with a domed hat with a long crescent shaped brim. What stood out most on this carving was the bow tie. Earlier this year (2016) I purchased two carvings from a dealer at a local show. One (#2) depicted a cigar smoking hobo wearing a bow tie. I suspected it was a match to the one I owned and when I compared the two they were clearly carved by the same carver. Two months later at the same show, a friend told me he wanted me to take a look at a carving (#3) he had in his collection. I was very surprised when he handed me the carving and it had the very similar bow tie. It also shared a number of the same characteristics and carving techniques. I told him it was a classic carving by an unknown artist, but that I believed it was a match to the two I owned. He asked me what I thought the value was and he surprised me again when he said I could have it for that price. I hadn’t thought it was something he wanted to sell. Although this carving was clearly not carved by George Washington “Bo” Hughes, I have nicknamed this unknown carver “Bo Tie” after the feature that helped match these three carvings.



1



2



3

The carving characteristics for “Bo Tie” are as follows:

- 1) Hat crown with checkered accents, wide band with varying degrees of accents, long crescent shaped hat brim.
- 2) Wriggle cut hair, moustache beard and eyebrow.
- 3) An engraved ear.
- 4) Tall accented V-neck collar above an accented jacket.
- 5) Bow tie with center knot and accent lines.
- 6) Unaltered profile.
- 7) Area around mouth left uncarved enhancing the lips.
- 8) Cleaned fields with LIBERTY partially intact.
- 9) The date has been removed.

THE Original Nickel Society

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

State: _____ Phone: _____

United States

1 Year - \$20

3 Years - \$50

5 Years - \$75

Life - \$350

Youth (Under 19) \$7.50

Associate (Shared mail) \$7.50

International/Canada

1 Year - \$35

3 Years - \$90

5 Years - \$150

Life - \$400

Date: _____ OHNS#: _____

Hobo Monicker: _____

Email: _____

Membership Choice _____

OHNS Membership

Becky Jirka

5111 Illinois Avenue

Lisle, IL 60532-2015

- I agree to abide by the Original Hobo Nickel Society Ethics, available at hobonickels.org

Signature: _____ Date: _____

****Please make all checks payable to The Original Hobo Nickel Society. Bank Requires Name to be written out in full!****

Additional membership applications are also available at www.hobonickels.org

Member Quests



Three's A Match

Maybe you own the 3rd example in your collection that matches one of the pairs of nickels on this page. If so, you can collaborate on the nicknaming of said artist. Contact the editor if you have a match (see page 3).

This pair of hobo nickels below has been submitted by OHNS member Fred Avan, RM 908



These two hobo nickels have been submitted by member Don Wolfe, RM 981



CSNS Educational Seminar

By Ralph Winter, HLM 37

On May 14th of this year I was fortunate to be able to attend a Numismatic Seminar sponsored by the Central States Numismatic Society (CSNS) and the Glass center Coin Club. It was held in Perrysburg, Ohio (suburb of Toledo) which is just about an hour's drive from my home near Ann Arbor, Michigan.

There were four speakers. Carol Bastable spoke on "Love Tokens: Beyond the Ordinary;" Larry Falater gave a talk on "Toledo, Michigan: In Notes & Lore;" Peter Huntoon presented a "Spotlight on Ohio National

Banknotes;" Brad Karoleff talked about "Connections: Black Pepper, The Mountain That Eats Men & John Reich." All four speakers did an outstanding job.



I especially enjoyed Carol Bastable's (yes, our OHNS President) presentation. I personally got a whole new insight into love tokens.

Carol is pictured here on the right talking to Louise Boling prior to the start of Carol's talk.

By the way, OHNS member Dan Freeland and his wife Kathy were also in attendance.



In the back row above are myself, Kathy Freeland and Richard Burdick admiring the phenomenal love token display that Richard brought to the seminar. ♦



OHNS Train Tokens Derailed

The plan to have five consecutive years of train engine and train car OHNS tokens, started in 2015, has been derailed. First of all, we started it (engine direction) facing the wrong way –that is same as the token train that ran from 2007-2010. The other thing that was overlooked was that 2017 is the 25th Anniversary of OHNS. So we are going to instead have a token commemorating our 25th year. Perhaps we'll start another train in the future. More details on 25th Anniversary token in winter 2016 *BoTales* issue. ♦

Coin of the Year



This year's contest is for a modern coin carving and the theme will be the 25th anniversary of OHNS. So, rather than submitting coins from a current collection of coins you already own, this contest is geared toward carvers creating a new coin carving to mark the 25th anniversary of OHNS being formed. Many carvers created coins marking the 100th anniversary of the Buffalo nickel and referenced 100 years in their carvings. Doing the same with 25th anniversary OHNS is a safe bet but some carvers may have their own creative and unique ideas expressing how they want to mark the anniversary.

Unlike prior years, OHNS members/carvers need not be present at the FUN show to submit their carved coins. Sending Carol Bastable a photo of the finished work is sufficient to be included in the contest. However if attending, please bring your coin entry with you so that it may be better reviewed in person. The winning coin will be featured on the cover/header of the following *BoTales*. Submissions can be on any denomination coin and the only criteria is that it commemorates the 25 year anniversary of OHNS. December 31st is the deadline for submissions (allow one week extra time for snail mail). I expect that runner-up coins may also be shown in *BoTales* through the year but the cover position is reserved only for the 1st place winner. The image of the winner's coin will be forwarded to Erin Leigh, who runs the OHNS Twitter account. And, I may also jump the winner in line for their own "Carver Spotlight" article if I have not previously included that person in the column. Currently names are picked from a hat for that column. We look forward to seeing your ideas. ♦

Letters to the Editor

Following publication of the summer 2016 issue of *BoTales*, we received feedback on Stephen Alpert's "Pig Hobo Nickels" article from OHNS members Ira Rezak and David Silver.

Ira wrote, "Dear Ralph:

Referring to Stephen Alpert's "Pig Hobo Nickel" article in the recent Summer 2016 *BoTales*, I'd like to offer the following comment.

Mr. Alpert notes that on his second "pig" specimen there are three Hebrew letters and says that he's not sure of their translation. Well, they clearly say "shalosh" (שלש) which is the normal feminine form of the Hebrew and Yiddish word for the number "three" (3). What this numerical word refers to in this context is uncertain, but two possible meanings occur to me. First, and most plausibly, since the "Five Cents" denomination has been erased from this specimen along with "United States of America" possibly the engraver meant to joke that the nickel's value was now reduced to three cents. Alternatively, reference conceivably might be intended to the children's fable of "the three little pigs" who ultimately defeated the wolf or fox or hare, meaning police or other persecutors of hobos. Perhaps others may think of other explanations. With best regards, Ira Rezak MD"

Member David Silver wrote directly to Steve.

"Hi Stephen, my name is Dave Silver LM27. I was reading your article on Pig Hobos, especially the one with the Hebrew lettering. The Hebrew letters spell Shalosh which is the Hebrew word for three. Here is a link to give further insight. שלש | Abarim Publications Theological Dictionary (Hebrew)

Perhaps, though tongue in cheek, the carver may have been thinking about the story of the Three Little Pigs. Who knows. Happy hunting, Dave." ♦

H₂O Can No Longer Do It!

By Ralph Winter

We have informed you previously in *BoTales* that Don "H₂O" Haley really is going to have to relinquish some of his OHNS responsibilities and semi-retire (from OHNS). Don is simply no longer able to setup and take down the OHNS table displays at the FUN Shows. Don still hopes to attend the shows, but he's just getting too mature to do setup and takedown.

We need a member to come forward who is willing to take on this task. There will be other members such as myself who can help man the OHNS table and answer questions, but we may not be available for both the setup and takedown of the FUN Show OHNS table. Please give this some consideration. ♦



We celebrated our first "Carving On The Coast" event at the Gulf Coast Coin Show in Biloxi, Mississippi June 24-26 2016. Archie "Rollie" Taylor, former OHNS President shared his time and talent carving over 100 hobo nickels for coin collectors, coin dealers, and fellow hobo nickel enthusiasts attending the show.

Inspiring Our Future Hobo Nickel Carvers & Young Numismatists

Ben Nottingham (top left) and his father specifically came to the show to meet Archie and try his hand at hobo nickel carving. Ben left the show with three gravers to start working on sculpting his own coins with a hammer and chisel.

While little Hadleigh Jane Adkins didn't carve her own hobo nickel, she certainly enjoyed watching Archie carve her hobo nickel and posing for photographs as the littlest hobo of the day.

Abby Attaway (bottom left) donned a derby hat and showed her "girl power" as she proceeded to carve her very own hobo nickel.

Allyson and Sarah Briels learned the art of hobo nickel carving and posed for pictures with their parents. Alice and Calvin Beard were mesmerized watching the Indian on their nickel transform into a hobo.

The Fifth Annual Gulf Coast Coin show will be held June 22- 24th 2017 in Biloxi Mississippi at the Biloxi Civic Center at 578 Howard Avenue, Biloxi MS. OHNS members who would like to do some "Carving On The Coast" with us are encouraged to start planning their "working vacation" today. ♦



Sneak Peek – Auction 26

There have already been some very nice classic and modern hobo nickels submitted for Auction 26 that takes place on January 7, 2017 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward Convention Center.

Here's a sneak peek early look at some of the coins in January's auction.



“Matt Ticolous” and the reverse of a two-sided carving



Howard Thomas lion and “Braidy” classic



Unknown and Bob Shamey 3-sided 2oz silver round



Bob Shamey 3rd side (train on edge) of 2oz silver round



“Tufty” classic & 2-sided Steve Adams 2oz silver round



Unknown classic

The winter 2016 issue of *BoTales* (Auction Catalog) will have photographs of all the auction lots including all sides of 2 & 3 sided carvings) as well as quality descriptions.

It's not too late to submit coins to Auction 26, but don't delay. See page 21 for details. ♦

We Hope to See You at FUN 2017



The 62nd annual FUN Convention will be held January 5-8th, 2017 at the **Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward Convention Center**. 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

OHNS will hold its Annual meeting and Auction on Saturday, January 7th. Go to the FUN website at www.funtopics.com for additional information and hotel reservations or call 855-467-7245. You may wish to also check the individual hotel for rates and discounts. ♦

Mainstreaming Hobo Nickels

By Carol Bastable RM576

There is a challenge in numismatics and that is to always bring more collectors to the hobby. This insures the growth of the hobby and also supplies new collectors to replace aged ones. Many coin clubs have young numismatist programs (YN programs) which introduce the idea of numismatic collecting to kids at a young age in the hopes they will follow on in collecting as adults. The best approach is through education (coins in the classroom), scout badges, and also indoctrinating the offspring of already collecting adults. The even bigger challenge is reaching adults outside the numismatic community whom have never given any thought to collecting coins, paper money, and exonumia. Usually the only mainstream headlines that get to primetime network news and newspapers are those on million and multiple million dollar coins that set record prices. That is attention getting and usually follows up with lay people inundating local coin stores with calls about wheat cents they have at the bottom of a junk drawer or questions about a coin they believed their grandparents owned and curiosity about the values. The dealer of course cannot see said coin and not surprisingly the caller says it is as perfect as the day it was made. In reality it is probably a shiny polished coin with little detail. For a specific area in numismatics, like hobo nickels, our mission is twofold. We must educate regular currency collectors about our field as well as the public at large.

Having a club table at a major coin show has given us visibility with traditional numismatic collectors and showcases our niche in numismatics. There are still some steadfast collectors that cannot get past the "mutilation" of U.S. currency but as values go up on hobo nickels they have gained so much more respect in numismatics. Going back thirty years or so, many dealers knew the Bo and Bert names but most did not know how to tell one from more generic carvings. With record breaking prices hitting several coin publication headlines with Bo's Dicer coin, it was a wake-up call for many who had underestimated our field. A number of dealers are getting in on the action and carrying hobo nickels for sale. Many are modern as they are readily available for sale and it is easy for dealers to locate and acquire them. There are still many non-hobo nickel collectors that come by the OHNS table and ask how to tell modern from old and some ask about old and fakes. Apparently they have heard that there is money that can be made in hobo nickels if one knows what to look for. Often when they are asked what they mean by fake, they are referencing modern made...which as we know is not fake but just newer made. Additionally novices need to be educated about some of the record breaking prices that modern carvings have brought with a \$10,000 Ron Landis being the top.

Of course it is impossible to educate them on everything they need to know as there are books, websites, and auction catalogs, all written on the subject. It is the same for regular coin dealers when they have "newbies" come in their stores and are bombarded by "questions 101" with no magic answers for novices to be able to assimilate years of knowledge in minutes. Even dealers continue learning all their lives.

In addition to coin show and newspaper press, hobo nickels also crept into a numismatic book on Kennedy half dollars, the details of which were printed in a past *"Timeline: Year in Review"* BoTales article. Additionally hobo nickels have recently gained even more visibility with Paolo Curcio's carved designs being made into one ounce silver rounds by Johnson Matthey, one of the big names in bullion silver production. At the summer FUN show, a couple people came by the table that did not collect hobo nickels but rather specifically collected only silver rounds. When asked if they knew of the hobo nickel silver rounds, they answered that they did. So, hobo nickels have just crossed over to another area of numismatics. Of course Gallery Mint struck hobo nickel tokens and OHNS has a new hobo token for sale every year. OHNS has also begun handing out informational brochures that interested show goers can take with them to read and reference later. These include our website address if somebody wants to learn more.



Paolo Curcio silver rounds

The bigger issue and much harder to break through, is reaching those people outside of coin collecting entirely. It was previously predicted that those skull carvings, the ones that have many in our club offering strong opinions on, were going to be one of the tools to mainstream hobo

nickels to the masses outside of numismatics. A few years ago a fictional book of short stories wrote about skull coin carvings that were cursed to those who crossed paths with the coins. Paolo Curcio was also featured in a book titled “Skulture”. Skull coin rings and coin pendants have proven to be the most popular hobo nickel design for one jewelry manufacturer and wholesaler. A skull coin carving found in pocket change was also reported in a blog outside of numismatic channels.

There are a few carvers out there that are leaving hobo nickels as tips, placing them in locations for the first passerby to discover, or putting them into circulation. Every time an oddity is discovered in change by an observant person, it is a potential person touched enough by the carving to want to learn more about the item. A number of years ago I received an anonymous letter in the mail with a 2005 Jefferson nickel whose portrait had been altered with the addition of spectacles. These coins were being engraved and then put back into circulation. The person withheld an identity, mostly due to worry about the legality of “defacing” money and then returning it to circulation. At that time apparently two rolls of them had “accidentally” fallen into circulation as the letter explained it. The reverse of the coins are signed “HOB0 X” and mine is numbered four. Additionally the buffalo has only three legs. The spectacles are small enough that they could easily be overlooked in day to day financial transactions and HOB0 X is not that deeply carved that it jumps out either. These are more likely to be spotted by a person already collecting coins and searching change.

Hobo X is not the first to “spend” altered coins. At the age of sixteen, Larry Foster started playing around with coin carving. He had been a coin collector from age five. Foster would add hair or a hat on regular pocket change and then he would have fun spending it. He estimates that it was the mid 1980’s. All the while he pondered if he would ever see his coins again and what would ultimately become of them. With millions of coins out there in change, the odds were against him and he never saw his on work pass his hands again. Ron Landis began making cameo carvings possibly as early as 1982. These were not the fancy clad carvings of today but were simply background removal around the existing portrait. His were done on dimes and for fun he also spent them.

Harry Caldwell IV has taken an even grander step forward along these lines. On a few occasions he has left a coin carving in a public place for the first passerby to discover and covet. Geocaching comes to mind, especially when one looks at the mountain view where a carving was left. With no maps to find these and just a photo posted on social media, it makes one wonder when and if the lovely mountain view placement coin will be spotted. Another was placed in a more urban environment and was probably found the same day.



Street scene above where Harry Caldwell IV left a coin engraving on a railing in downtown Fort Collins Colorado.



Social media should not be underestimated in its impact either. There is a generation or two of young people with smart phones attached to their bodies like a third limb and their ages also correspond to those in the skull and zombies subculture set. Many twenty and thirty somethings do not feel they can cope without their phones and even older generations are enjoying some of the smart phone capabilities. Through the years more and more networking options have become available from Instagram to Twitter and also Pinterest and Facebook. Shared media

Continued on page 16

Mainstreaming Hobo Nickels continued from page 15

often gets retweeted, repined, reposted and shared by many people outside of coin collecting and the number of people seeing it goes up geometrically in size and becomes a mass audience through time. Erin Leigh has been running a Twitter account for us for over a year and was appointed publicist for OHNS at the January FUN show.

After the first fictional book on hobo nickels came out, another author wrote one about a murder and inheritance related to the deceased person's valuable hobo nickel collection. Hobo nickels are even on display at the Smithsonian museum. There have been many great advances in the last few years regarding our field and getting it out there. It even goes beyond events in the U.S. as our club is also international. Paolo Curcio has been featured in press throughout Europe, mostly online publications but spanning many European countries. There have also been numbers of newcomer hobo nickel artists with word getting out about hobo nickels. Four years ago Archie Taylor introduced hobo nickels to custom gun and knife engravers at Scott Pilkington's engrave-in and that brought in a handful of new hobo nickel carvers. Some of them include their hobo nickel art on their gun and knife engraving websites. This is giving hobo nickels a potential new marketplace and possibly a new source of collectors.

Hobo nickels have an advantage over traditional numismatics in terms of reaching mainstream culture because they go beyond just being coins....they are additionally art and can be either folk art or fine art depending on design and execution. They are more uniquely one of a kind and handmade, whereas standard legal tender coins are struck and number in the thousands or millions made each year, with few exceptions. There are people outside of the coin industry that collect art and regard these carvings first as art and the coin aspect is secondary as it just serves as the canvas. Hobo nickels can go to venues outside of coin shows including antique shows, gun shows, jewelers, art & craft shows, and potentially even art galleries. It just depends on how these coins are marketed and the steps being taken to introduce them to new fields. Perhaps even people interested in miniatures and doll collecting could find the appeal in these tiny works of art. Historians and particularly wartime art collectors should also like the Kaiser styled hobo nickels made by those soldiers being shipped off to war. Hobo nickels have had a renaissance from the modern carving movement to the quantity of press generated about both classic and modern hobo nickels in more recent years. Recently it was announced that hobo nickels will be added to a special edition "Mega Red Book" coming out in 2017. It is exciting to see where the hobby will go from here and if the momentum that has begun continues to grow. ♦



Ben Franklin looking to the future with his spectacles on, coin by Carver X, #4.

What Do These 4 Have in Common?



At first glance all four of the above hobo nickels appear to be classic carvings. The one obvious thing the four pictured coins have in common is no visible date or date removed. But what they also have in common is what

can be observed on the photo to the left. This could be the reverse for any of the four. Each coin's reverse is badly worn and is virtually identical to the one pictured here. Yes, all four of the above pictured hobo nickels are by a modern carver. All four have been available for sale on eBay. No claim, old or new was

made by the sellers. If you like 'em, buy 'em. Just make sure you know what you're bidding on.



It should be noted that some classic hobo nickels were done on worn nickels or nickels that received pocket wear. The latter should show wear on both surfaces including design wear. ♦

Introducing “Deep Pockets”

Marc Banks, RM 538, Candace Kagin, LM 777 and Chris Dempsey, LM 64

In 2013 I purchased an above average classic carving (#1) with a very prominent nose as a Buy-it-Now on eBay. Chris Dempsey acquired a second carving (#2) of a man with a turned up nose wearing a nightcap listed by the same seller. Although the carvings were quite different they shared a number of the same carving characteristics linking them to the same talented, unknown carver. Particularly striking were punch marks creating deep pockets accenting the face. I have not seen this type of punching on any other carvings. Since that eventful day several additional works have by this artist have appeared. The third example, a more traditional carving, was shown to Chris at a coin show. The fourth example (#4) was identified in the collection of Candace Kagin. I was also able to obtain a photo of a fifth example (#5) by this artist. I have nicknamed this carver “**Deep Pockets**” after the distinctive punch marks displayed on these carvings



The carving characteristics for “**Deep Pockets**” are as follows:

- 1) The carvings display very distinctive punch marks that terminate in a deep pocket/scoop-shaped depression that is very pronounced behind the eye. Some examples have a number of these marks.
- 2) All examples have nicely shaped and detailed ears.
- 3) The carvings have nicely carved or punched hair and or beards, enhanced eyes, modified noses and mouths.
- 4) Four examples share collars whose outline resemble the wings of a seagull.
- 5) Four examples have domed hats with a crescent-shaped brim, two have bows on the hat band. Example #2 is wearing a cap which shares the same accenting as example 1.
- 6) All are done on early date nickels (1913-1919).
- 7) Fields are well dressed.
- 8) LIBERTY has been removed on examples 4 and 5.

Some Recent eBay Sales of Modern Hobo Nickels & Hobo Style Carved Coins



Barb Hunter \$41



Joey Blaylock \$59



Quesada Canovas \$209



Shaun Hughes \$499



Gordon Raistrick \$51



Blanca de la Hoz \$531



David Hj He \$293



J. Allen \$23



Amy Armstrong \$610



Yanko Kranov \$540



Howard Thomas \$1700



Robert Morris \$810



Josh Ranger \$306



Shane Hunter \$305



Wabon Eddings \$12



Robert Morris \$510



Shaun Hughes \$314



Blanca de la Hoz \$904



Yanko Kranov \$306



Bill Jameson \$103

MONEY TALKS

#995

by Owen Lorian

So is Bo going
to try and run
for President?

He is
thinking
about it.

I suppose that instead
of Air Force One,
we'd have to have
Freight Train One.

He'd have
a good
slogan.

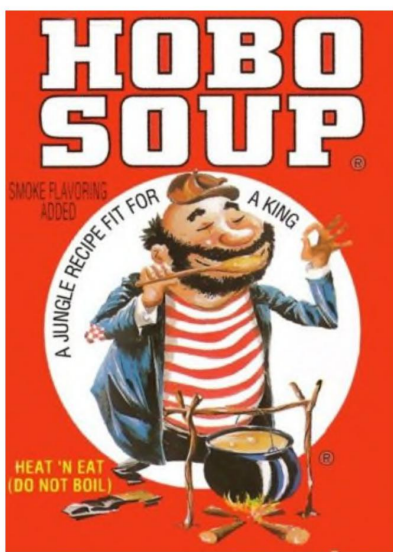
Elect a Hobo --
Get America
Back On Tracks.



HOBO EPHEMERA

BY CAROL BASTABLE RM#576

This issue's column combines a modern hobo carver with hobo ephemera. Years ago OHNS members learned of a brand of soup when it was auctioned as a last minute donation to one of our OHNS auctions at FUN. That brand of soup was simply named Hobo Soup with an added slogan that read "A Jungle Recipe Fit For A King".



Hobo nickel carver, jeweler, and engraver Amy Armstrong had always admired the hobo soup idea and graphics on the label and thought it would make a nice design on a coin carving. Rather than just appropriate the trademark design for herself, she tracked down and contacted the company/people that had produced the soup and told them she was an artist/engraver and would like to fashion it into a hobo nickel. The original owner, Jim Kaercher, had passed away only a few years ago in 2014. Armstrong was however able to contact his daughter, Sue Kaercher and she really liked the idea and wholeheartedly gave her consent. Sue Kaercher is a fourth generation editor of *The Ortonville Independent*, a family company in which her father and grandfather (Lemuel or Lem as he was called) had also served as editors.

Kaercher went one step further and published Armstrong's nickel carving in a column which she writes on interesting things. That issue contained information on hobo nickels and Armstrong's coin but more importantly gives the backstory on hobo soup and its creators. Lemuel Kaercher was born in Ortonville Minnesota in 1892, which just happens to be the 400 year anniversary of Columbus's voyage to the Americas. In 1906 (approximately), Lem finished the eighth grade and then set out to live the life of a hobo and traveled the country by riding the rails. Her grandfather made it a point to tell her that a hobo was not a bum and that they worked for their food by doing odd jobs for people to get money for food.

At some point Lem left that way of life, married, and settled down, but he never forgot his roots. He used to frequent a hobo jungle in his town and would often bring one or two home to have hot food. His wife Ruby welcomed them as well. Those were different times then with a small town sense of community and helping other people. In the 1960's Lem decided to interview some of the hoboes for a story in *The Ortonville Independent*. That day the hoboes treated them to their stew and Grandpa Lem liked it so much that he wrote the recipe down and had a local café make it for a daily special.

From there Sue Kaercher's grandfather and father decided they wanted to put it on supermarket shelves so they had it canned locally at the Big Stone Canning Company in Ortonville. They had a professional artist design the label and contracted for a boxcar load of the soup to be canned. From there they became their own distributors and drove up and down throughout Minnesota and Iowa getting it onto supermarket shelves. Some fifty years later the canning company closed and it became problematic to find another that would run such a small production. In 2013 they closed up shop.

Kudos to Armstrong for making the extra effort to get permission to use another person's design and in the process she uncovered a story and history that we would not have otherwise heard about. Armstrong also asked if the little man on the soup can had a name. He had never been named by the company as far as Sue Kaercher knew but felt strongly in thinking about it that he should appropriately be named Lem after her hobo grandfather. In some way Armstrong gave that family a gift by finally giving the soup hobo man his proper long overdue name and reminded the family of their special lineage and that it has touched people beyond those that actually enjoyed eating the soup.



1936 full horn Buffalo nickel, 24K yellow gold soup pot & ladle bowl, copper flames & hobo cap. The eBay auction realized \$860. ♦

Some Recent eBay Sales of Classic Hobo Nickels



Unknown \$193



"Needle Ear" \$430



Unknown \$161



Unknown \$77



Unknown \$11



"Rough Beard" \$184



Unknown \$277



Unknown \$27



Unknown \$60



Unknown \$214



Unknown \$232



Unknown \$96



"Tufty" \$108



Unknown \$30 B.I.N.



Unknown \$389



Unknown \$382



Unknown \$80



Unknown \$358



Unknown \$15



"Tall Ear" \$263



Unknown \$181



Unknown \$50



Unknown \$89



Unknown \$205



Unknown \$73



Unknown \$80



"Saucer Hat" \$44



Unknown \$482



Unknown \$12



Unknown \$50

Time is Running Out to Submit Coins

Time is running out to submit coins for the 2017 OHNS Auction. Don't wait until the last minute and have your coins rejected (if auction lots are already filled).

When mailing coins for the OHNS Auction, please send **coins requiring QD to either Stephen Alpert or Art DelFavero**. Their contact information can be found on page 3 of this issue.

If your coins already have a QD or are to be a bulk lot as described below, please send them to Marc Banks. Marc's contact information is also found on page 3.

Original carvings of Average or less quality can be combined into lots of 2 or more pieces depending on the consignor's wishes and approval of the auction manager.

Consignors should contact the Auction Manager and send photos, if possible, so that he can suggest which pieces can stand alone and which should be placed in bulk lots.

Bulk lots do not require a QD and the only expense to the consignor would be the 5% seller's fee at the conclusion of the auction.

The **deadline** for submitting coins for the 2017 OHNS FUN Convention Auction to be held on January 7, 2017 is **October 15, 2016. This date could be earlier if the auction is already full (approximately 120 lots).** ♦

Specific Auction Submission Rules

Submitting Auction Lots • OHNS members can submit lots for the auction through the mail as detailed on the submission form found on page 4 of this issue.

Submission Constraints • Non-carver members may submit no more than one lot from any given modern carver. If a member submits more than one lot by the same modern carver without prior permission from the Auction Manager, the extra coin(s) will be returned at the submitter's expense. There is a **limit of 20 lots total per consigner**. Donated lots are exempt from this rule of just one lot per modern carver.

Quality Designation Paperwork • Already completed QD paperwork (or the old OHNS Registration paperwork) should accompany each submitted carving. If the QD paperwork is needed, list each carving on the QD Submission Form. The QD submission form can be found on page 4 of this issue or online at **www.hobonickels.org**. Then mail the carving(s), QD submission form(s) and payment to Stephen Alpert, Art DelFavero or Marc Banks **as noted above**. (You may want to discuss payment amount required with Auction Manager Banks before remitting payment). Be sure to include the extra payment for carvings valued at over \$100 each.

Auction Fees The QD fee is **\$25 for one carving; \$20 per carving for 2-10 carvings; 11 or more carvings @**

\$15 ea. There is a **5% Seller's fee** and a **10% Buyer's fee**. **No QDs are required for bulk lots of 2 or more coins.**

Classic Nickel Carvings • Old hobo nickels should be of Average or higher quality to be listed individually; lower quality specimens can be sold in quantity as a single bulk lot. No QD paperwork is required for these lots.

Recent Nickel Carvings • Modern hobo nickels should be of Above Average or higher quality to be listed individually; lower quality specimens can be grouped into bulk lots as above.

Donated Carvings • We are aiming for an equal balance of old and modern hobo nickels in each auction. Thus modern carvings are limited to three of their own carvings from a carver member (no limit on donated carvings – there are no fees on donated carvings but please fill out a QD submission form and submit one with each donated carving.)

Minimum Bids • No minimum or reserve bids can be placed on consigned lots; but the consignor can submit a mailed or emailed bid on their item(s) to protect them. Consignors cannot bid on their own lots at the auction.

Exceptions to Rules • The OHNS Auction Manager has the authority to make exceptions to the auction rules if it is judged that doing so will be beneficial to the auction.

Again, if you have any questions about these rules, please contact the Auction Manager Marc Banks. Contact information can be found on page 3. ♦

How to Package Coins for QD



When submitting coins for Quality Designation, it is greatly appreciated if your hobo nickels are housed in plastic "flips" rather than in 2x2 cardboard holders or hard plastic coin holders.

PLEASE, NO STAPLES, even in the flips! OHNS is a volunteer organization. Our QD Examiners give of their time to support the hobby and OHNS. Please do not make the job more difficult for them.

Also, if you are submitting a specimen that you believe to be by a nicknamed carver or a known contemporary carver, it will save time and effort for the QD Examiner if you provide that information along with your submission. Quality Designation form can be found on page 4 of this *BoTales* issue as well as on the OHNS website

Also whether your coins to be QD'd are going into the auction or are for your personal collection, you should be advised that large submissions (**more than 20**) may be subject to extended delays. Smaller groups are preferred so that all submitters can get their carvings back in a timely manner. ♦

THE
Original HOBO Nickel Society
QUALITY DESIGNATION AND AUCTION CONSIGNMENT FORM

Contact Information - OHNS # _____		Quality Designation Fee's		Upon QD Completion	
Name: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> QD Fee (Single Coin) - \$25		<input type="checkbox"/> Return Coins to Me	
Address: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 10 coins - \$20 per coin		<input type="checkbox"/> Consign to Next Annual OHNS Auction	
City: _____ State: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Bulk QD (11+ coins) - \$15 per			
Zip: _____ Phone: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members - \$30 per			
Email: _____		Insured Value Up to \$1,000		Insured Value Up to \$3,000	
Hobo Monicker: _____		Add \$30		Add \$50	
No. of Coins _____ X fee _____ = _____ Additional Insurance: _____ QD Form Fee Total: _____					

****Please make all checks payable to The Original Hobo Nickel Society.****
Bank Requires Name to be written out in full!

Email or call Marc Banks (banksmarc@sbcglobal.net) for pricing when the total value is over \$3500. Please contact Marc Banks before sending auction consignments with existing QD paperwork. The USPS will require proof of value for insured items lost in the mail.
No additional insurance required if total value is under \$100.

Quality Designation Coin List

	Coin Date	Carver Name/Nickname (If Known)	Carving Subject	Value
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Declared Value Total: _____

Submissions will be reviewed by two OHNS QD Examiners who will give independant opinions as to the quality of the carving, subject, and probable artist. A photograph of the coin will be taken to accompany the report. Originals of the report and photograph will be returned along with the coin to the owner and copies will be kept (1) by the first OHNS QD Examiner and (2) in the OHNS Archives

The opinions rendered by our Quality Designation Examiners are strictly that, and are not a guarantee of value or authenticity. It is, however, the best considered judgement by qualified specialists in the field. Others may reach **DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail Fees and Completed QD forms to:

Stephen Alpert (OHNS QD)
P.O.Box 335441
North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441

- OR -

Art DelFavero (OHNS QD)
41562 Cornell Drive
Novi, MI 48377-1559

Additional Quality Designation/Auction Consignment Forms can be found at www.hobonickels.org



In this issue of *BoTales* I wish to bring to your attention some ANA (American Numismatic Association) award winners. The Farran Zerbe Memorial Award is the ANA's highest honor given in recognition of numerous years of outstanding, dedicated service to numismatics. The 2016 honorees are **Mark and Myrna Lighterman**. Mark is a leader in the numismatic community and was a founding member of the Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America (CONECA). He is currently treasurer of the Tokens and Medals Society (TAMS) and has been a supporter and mentor to young numismatists for the last decade. For many years, Myrna Lighterman was a shining light for the ANA and the hobby. She worked tirelessly as a volunteer and was an integral part of the coin collecting community for over 40 years. Myrna was a collector, exhibitor, speaker, coin club officer, author and numismatic researcher. Her work with numismatic youth has helped to ensure the hobby is passed on to future generations. Myrna caught the westbound in September of last year (see *BoTales* Winter 2015 Vol. 24, Issue 4). Mark has continued Myrna's OHNS membership by assuming her membership number.



Myrna & Mark (photo courtesy ANA *The Numismatist*)

I want to also mention two other ANA award winners. OHNS member Steven Roach has received the Adna G. Wilde Jr. Memorial Award for Excellence. This award honors ANA members who dedicate their time and resources to further the educational purposes of the Association and the hobby, and who set an example for others. John Kraljevich, son of OHNS founder and Board Member Emeritus Gail Baker, was awarded the Numismatist of the Year. This award honors an individual within the numismatic community who has demonstrated long-term leadership in the field and to the Association. These awards were presented at the just concluded ANA World's Fair of Money in Anaheim, California. ♦



OHNS Charitable Donation Program

This article discusses a new charitable donation program being proposed to the OHNS board for implementation in the future.

As all not-for-profit organizations we rely on our members for revenue. For OHNS this revenue includes our annual dues, our annual auction sales and related QD fees, and sales of our guidebooks, tokens and related club material.

We keep our expenses to a minimum by using volunteers, by obtaining sponsorships for special programs and by using our board member's expertise in obtaining the best value for procuring our normal operating expenses.

As with most not-for-profits we are always running a slight deficit in our operating budget. (This does not include our separate Life Member account.)

The usual method for not-for-profits to keep solvent is to solicit donations to offset the deficits.

OHNS has not had an ongoing program for obtaining charitable donations and a program is being prepared for board approval to implement a fundraising effort in the near future. One advantage of being a 501.c (7) not-for-profit is that your donations are tax deductible. I send you a letter on our letterhead acknowledging your donation.

The effort could include any or all of the following:

- An annual member solicitation that may be included as part of dues renewal (a dues plus donation approach with some special OHNS recognition mention or memento).
- Obtaining specific sponsorships for scholarships and honorariums.
- Special commemorative token sales.
- A carver donation requirement related to honorariums or other special recognitions.
- Sponsorships for special issues of commemorative issues of *BoTales* or other OHNS publication and brochures.

I'm sure there are other ideas for donations our board and members could provide so this article is the first step in formulating the program and obtaining board approval for the program.

Your comments are welcome. Please provide your comments to me or any board member (see page 3) for consideration. ♦

Sandy Pearl, OHNS Treasurer

A Little "Hobo" Photo FUN



OHNS Club Booth At 2016 Summer FUN

Erin Leigh was on hand to photograph our future hobo nickel carvers. Our ever-expanding numismatic giveaways and photo props make our photo fun booth an entertaining and enjoyable photo opportunity for people of all ages. Every Picture Tells a Story Our Photo Station is always a hit. Pictured in photo below are Carol Bastable and Dorothy and Fred Avan. ♦

The Original Hobo Nickel Society



2016 Summer FUN Orlando, Florida